

## ELECTRONIC RIGHTS MANAGEMENT

A proxy service for providing a practical point of intervention for the application of information handling policies, especially copyright management and enforcement services. The invention provides a platform upon which to generalise the interpretation and enforcement of copyright policies, which is particularly useful where large related basis of users with heterogeneous viewing environments might need policies applied in a uniform and flexible way. The invention keeps the process and mechanisms of user authentication and authorisation separate and distinct from the actual implementation of policy enforcement.